

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00753 251433Z

44

ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2818

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0753

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NS, KN

SURINAM-NORTH KOREA RELATIONS

REF : PARAMARIBO 0723

1. DURING HIS AUGUST 17-21 VISIT, NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO CUBA LI IN-CHUN PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SURINAM AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL WITH RESIDENT MISSION IN PARAMARIBO. PRIME MINISTER ARRON REPORTEDLY TOLD HIM, HOWEVER, THAT CERTAIN PROCEDURES INCLUDING SUBMISSION OF REQUEST TO CABINET MUST BE FOLLOWED AND THAT GOS WOULD REPLY AT SOME LATER DATE.

2. LI, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMAT-INTERPRETER OH KI-BONG, ALSO SAW MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BRUMA, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SOEMITA, AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT CAMBRIDGE, ACCORDING TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR VAN DER GELD, WITH WHOM AMBASSADOR ZURHELLEN DISCUSSED NORTH KOREAN VISIT AUGUST 24. VAN DER GELD SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT ANY RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREAN REQUEST, WHICH HAS BEEN SUBMITTED IN WRITING, UNTIL PROBABLY SOME TIME NEXT YEAR, CERTAINLY NOT UNTIL AFTER UPCOMING BUDGET DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER. HE SAID GOS WANTED TO HOLD OFF NORTH
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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00753 251433Z

KOREANS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, BUT IF IT "CAME DOWN TO BRASS

TACKS," THEY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO AGREE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESIDENT MISSION WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE AGREED TO BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY IN FINDING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE NORTH KOREANS IN PARAMARIBO AND BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SURINAMESE MISSIONS ABROAD.

3. VAN DER GELD SAID GOS IS BEGINNING TO STUDY QUESTION OF UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON THE KOREAN PROBLEM AND WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH U.S. ON POSSIBLE SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION BY SURINAM. HE NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD TAKEN OPPORTUNITY OF HIS MEETING WITH NORTH KOREANS TO URGE THAT THEY SIT DOWN WITH THE SOUTH KOREANS TO SETTLE THEIR PROBLEMS PEACEFULLY BUT ADDED THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED BY THE NORTH KOREANS.
ZURHELLEN

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